mortality been based upon a ground so curious as his power to draw a soul-satisfying picture of a pea-green parlor lamp with a large red

In "A Forest Orchid" (Macmillans), Mrs. Ella Higginson publishes a new collection of her stories of life in that part of the Northwest that she has made her own. In her last volume, "From the Land of the Snow Pearls," this bril-Hant writer seemed to us to have confined herself too exclusively to the gloomier side of the life of the settlers on the shores of Puget Sound, and it is pleasant to turn to the brighter pictures that make up the present collection. The note of sadness is still there, but it is less insistent and does not dominate the whole, and, as a result, the volume gains immensely in artistic merit. "A Forest Orchid," the first of the stories, is full of sensuous charm, and gives a wonderful picture of the depths of the great virgin forest, wherein as we read we can almost hear the shrilling of Pan's pipes and the angry stamp of his hoof as the axemen bring some giant of the voods crashing and thundering to the ground, It is but a small circle in which most of these characters of Mrs. Higginson revolve but within its limits each story is a work of art. A beautiful and refined young girl, filled with vague aspirations and superior to the sordidness of her daily life, a mother rough and good-hearted, and a rustic lover play the principal parts, but so skilful is the treatment that each story lingers in the memory distinct in itself. Much of the humor and pathos of humble and uneventful lives is brought out in these delicate little dramas, while their setting brings before us the beauty of the splendid hills that tower, white and glistening, above the wells of purple mist.

In the second series of "The Golden Treasury." selections from the best English songs and lyrical poems (Macmillans), Prof. Palgrave has made his choice from some of the finest work of the Victorian poets, and has thus brought the whole collection as near as is desirable to our own day. There are thirty-eight poets in all, of whom Tennyson has furnished the greater number of lyrics in the volume, while Swinburne is not represented, though in him the lyrical gift is more perfectly developed than in any of his contemporaries. This omission is, however, due to some difficulty in the matter of copyright. No selection could possibly satisfy all readers and hence criticism of this part of Prof. Palgrave's work is unnecessary. The amount of space given to Arthur O'Shaughnessy and to William Barnes, the Dorset poet, will be, to many, a matter for surprise: but Prof. Palgrave justifies this on the ground that, of all Victorian poets, these two have met with the least due recognition of their powers. One little-known singer who is here represented is Henry Clarence Ken dall, an Australian poet, whose verse is full of exquisite and haunting melody, and whose early death was a loss to literature that has not as yet been fully estimated.

Here are three verses from his "After Many

The song that once I dream'd about, The tender, touching thing.

As radiant as the rose without-The love of wind and wing: The perfect verses to the tune

Of woodland music set, As beautiful as afterno Remain unwritten yet.

There is a river in the range Perhaps the searching feet of change Have never found it out.

Ah! oftentimes I used to look To steal the beauty of that brook

And put it in a song. But in the night, and when the rain The troubled torrests fills, I often think I see again

And when the day is very near My spirit fancies it can hear

The song I cannot sing. In the great and ever-increasing army of local colorists" Mr. Charles Fleming Embree deserves a foremost place. His volume of short stories of the great Southwest. "For the Love of Tonita and Other Tales of the Mesas" (H. S. Stone & Co.), is full of good things. Mexicans, Spaniards, cow punchers, sheep herders are all excellently drawn, and there is a freshness and a charm about each of these stories that make it a delight. In one or two the delicate pathos recalls some of the earlier of Bret Harte's work, while "His Terrifying Nemesis," the story told by a cow puncher of the wooing of an unwilling swain by a lady who "laid a heap o' store by her instincks" and found it hard "fer is as full of broad, rollicking humor as anything

of its kind that has been written in recent years. "Ars Recte Vivendi" (Harpers) is the title of series of essays written originally for "The Easy Chair" in Harper's Magazine by the late George William Curtis. "Extravagance at College," " Hazing," " The Soul of the Gentleman, 'Theatre Manners," the use and abuse of tobacco, and a number of other matters of especial interest to young men are discussed in these short and readable chapters with all that quiet dignity that distinguished Mr. Curtis's work, Some of the views expressed (as on the subject of smoking) will seem old fashioned to the young men of to-day, and here and there they resolve themselves into mere truisms, but they are always worthy of attention. Here is a character-

istic extract on the subject of "Hazing": The soul of the gentleman, what is it? Is it anything but kindly and thoughtful respect for others, helping the helpiess, succoring the needy, befriending the friendless and forlorn, doing justice, requirin fair play, and withstanding with every honorable means the built of the church and caucus, of the young gent emen, like charity, begins at home. Only the man who respects himself can be a gentleman and no gentleman will willingly annoy, torment, or

In his preface to "Select Masterpieces of Biblical Literature" (Macmillans), a little volume intended as an introduction to the series of works from the Sacred Scriptures presented in modern literary form under the general title of "The Modern Reader's Bible," Prof. Moulton says: "If the Sacred Scriptures are to be appreclated as literature, it is necessary to restore their literary form and structure." That which we call the Bible being, in fact, a whole library in which is compressed, between the covers of a single volume, the production of a number of different authors representing periods extending over many centuries, a result of this compression has been the obscuring of the original literary form of the Hebrew writings. In the " Modern Reader's Bible" an attempt is made to restore that form by rearrangement, distinguishing be tween prose and verse, history and oratory, &c., and printing and paragraphing in modern style. The text used is that of the Revised Version. and a reference table at the end of this volume of extracts connects the selections with the chapters and verses of the original version. This is certainly a most important and noteworthy undertaking. With certain parts of the Bible it has been attempted before, but Prof. Mouiton is the first thus to deal with the Sacred Writings as a whole, and the added beauty given to some of them, more particularly the lyrical portions, is both surprising and delightful.
"The Founders of Geology" (Macmillans) is

the title of a volume made up of a series of lectures delivered by Sir Archibald Geikie, Directer-General of the Geological Survey of Great Britain and Ireland, at Johns Hopkins University, in inauguration of the lectureship founded by Mrs. George Henry Williams in memory of her husband, the late distinguished professor of geology in that university. Speaking to a spe-cial audience, made up in part of many of the leading geologists of America, England, and the lecturer chose as his subject the story of the evolution of geology, limiting himself to the period between the middle of the last and the close of the second decade of the present century-an interval in which were laid the foundations of the science of geology. "Without for a moment aiming to cover all the ground," says he in the preface, "I deemed that a useful task might still be undertaken if the story of a few of the exect piencers were briefly narrated and if

from their struggles, their fallures and their successes it could be indicated how geological ideas and theories gradually took place. \* \* \* I could not but be impressed by the extraordinary vitality which geology has now attained in the United States. Every department of the science has its enthusiastic votaries. This remarkably rapid development of the science has not arisen from any influence derived from without, but springs, as it seems to me, from the zoarvellous geological riches of the American continent itself. • • Had the study of the earth begun in the New World instead of the Old, geology would unquestionably have made a more rapid advance than it has done. The future progress of the science may be expected to be largely directed and

quickened by discoveries made in America and by deductions from the clear evidence presented on that continent." The latest of the small volumes in "The Library of Useful Stories" (Appletons) is "The Story of Germ Life," by Prof. H. W. Conn. Although recent discoveries have created a general interest in the subject of bacteria, to the majority of readers the importance of these organisms, in many relations entirely independent of disease, is unknown. these pages not only is their well-known agency in causing disease considered, but also their importance as agents in other natural phenomena-their miscellaneous uses in the arts and industries—as scavengers, agents in fermentation, decomposition, &c., as well as their general history and the methods of combating para-

sitic bacteria in the treatment of disease. There is plenty of fun in the verses and illustrations in "The Bad Child's Book of Beasts" (Edward Arnold), though the humor of the former is sometimes of a too sophisticated sort to appeal to children. As, for instance, in the verse that, after pointing out the unsuitability of the lion as a playmate for the very young, continues thus:

The Tiger, on the other hand, is kittenish and mild, He makes a pretty play fellow for any little child; and mothers of large families (who claim to commo

Will find a Tiger well repay the trouble and expense On the other hand, both the pictures and the verse dedicated to the Big Baboon may appeal to either young or old:

The Big Baboon is found upon The plains of Cariboo: (A shocking thing to do). But if he dressed respectably And let his whiskers grow. How like this Big Baboon would be

The book may be recommended to the small boy, though with the hope that it will not have upon him the dire effect hinted at in the introduction:

The moral of this priceless work (If rightly understood) Will make you-from a little Turk-

Another excellent children's book with dainty and humorous illustrations is "The Vege-Men's Revenge," with pictures by Florence K. Upton and verses by Bertha Upton. (Longmans,

Mr. John Kendrick Bangs has written what e describes upon the title page as seven tales of domestic woe, in a volume called "Paste Jewels." (Harpers.) The stories tell of the misadventures of a young husband and wife in their experiments with successive "hired girls." They are, we are told in the preface, founded upon fact.

We have also received: "The History of Mankind," by Prof. Freiderich Ratzel. Translated from the second German edition by A. J. Butler, M. A., with introduction by E. B. Tylor, V. C. L., F. R. S. With colored plates, maps, and illustrations. Vol. II.

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ping Stones." To which is added a list of nearly 3,000 colloquialisms which cannot be renliterally from English into French. Francis Tarver, M. A. (Appletons.) "The Fall of the Sparrow." M. C. Balfour. (Putnams.) "The American System of Shorthand: The

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